

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-17. (Canceled).

18. (New) A wireless communication method comprising:

at media access controllers of all receiving stations in a communication system, detecting a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal; and

at said media access controllers of said all receiving stations in said communication system, when said signal is detected, interpreting a first idle time slot subsequent to transmission as being reserved for a network controller to gain a prioritized medium access and interpreting a second idle time slot subsequent to said transmission as being a minimum time for which a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating a transmission.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said signal is included in a header of a frame.

20. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said signal is included in a preamble of a frame.

21. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said signal is included in a footer of a frame.

22. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said signal is in the form of one subcarrier or plural subcarriers comprised of subcarriers for data transmission or a combination of subcarriers used for data transmission in a multicarrier symbol of a frame.

23. (New) A transmitter in a wireless communication system, the transmitter comprising:

a transmitting section that transmits a frame comprising a first signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue; and

a redefining section that redefines a frame timing to reduce an inter-frame space using a second signal showing said inter-frame space defined in a receiving station of a communicating party based on said first signal.

24. (New) A receiver in a wireless communication system, the receiver comprising:

a detecting section that detects a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal;

an interpreting section that, when said signal is detected, interprets a first idle time slot subsequent to transmission as being reserved for a network controller to gain a prioritized medium access and interprets a second idle time slot subsequent to said transmission as being a

minimum time for which a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating a transmission.

25. (New) A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network comprising a plurality of stations, wherein a station dynamically alters an inter frame space by redefining an interpretation of the inter frame space, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting a signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in a received signal; and

redefining the interpretation of the inter frame space to contain a time slot shorter than a time slot usually allocated when the signal is detected.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the station, on detecting a signal indicating an expected response or intent to continue in a received signal, interprets:

a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being reserved for signaled response/continuation;

a second idle time slot subsequent to the transmission as being reserved to gain prioritized medium access; and

a third idle time slot subsequent to the transmission as being the minimum time that a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating the transmission.

27. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the station, on detecting the signal indicating no expected response or intent to continue in the received signal, interprets:

a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being reserved to gain prioritized medium access; and

a second idle time slot subsequent to the transmission being the minimum time that a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating the transmission.

28. (New) A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network comprising a plurality of stations, wherein a station dynamically alters an inter-frame space by redefining an interpretation of the inter-frame space, said method comprising the steps of:

checking a medium activity indicator determining the end of activity on the medium; and
redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame space to contain a time slot shorter than a time slot usually allocated when the medium activity indicator is checked.

29. (New) A method for reducing medium access overhead in a wireless network comprising a plurality of stations, wherein a station dynamically alters an inter-frame space by redefining an interpretation of the inter-frame space, said method comprising the steps of:

resetting a medium activity indicator when no medium activity is indicated at the instant of time that activity is expected as indicated by the medium activity indicator; and

redefining the interpretation of the inter-frame space to contain a time slot shorter than a time slot usually allocated when the medium activity indicator is reset.